The Sermon on the Mount

The Sermon on the Mount and the Beatitudes sum up Christian thinking. Through them Jesus tells us how to be happy and blessed Christians.

Jesus' message of love and compassion made a deep impact on Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of our Nation, who acknowledged the Sermon on the Mount as a personal favourite.

BEATITUDES

Happy are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Happy are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
Happy are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
Happy are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.
Happy are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
Happy are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
Happy are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
Happy are they who are persecuted for the sake of justice, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"The Sermon on the Mount was the whole of Christianity for him who wanted to live a Christian life. It is that Sermon which has endeared Jesus to me," said Mahatma Gandhi in 1931 while speaking at a Christmas celebration aboard a ship sailing to India from London.

Jesus chose the Mount of Beatitudes, located on the north-western shores of the Sea of Galilee with a beautiful view of the villages of Capernaum and Tabgha, to give the Beatitudes, perhaps because this hill shaped into a hollow served as a natural amphitheatre.

The Beatitudes appear in Matthew's Gospel following the temptation of Jesus in the desert where He fasted for forty days and forty nights. The devil tried to tempt Him, but Jesus did not fall for his tricks. During these forty days, Jesus was in constant communication and reflection with His heavenly Father resulting in the Beatitudes.

The Palestine where Jesus lived and preached was ruled by the Romans; hence the Jews were in continuous sorrow and suffering under the foreign rulers. It is in such a context that Jesus gave the Beatitudes, offering renewed hope, eternal truth and everlasting happiness for entire humankind.

Jesus also taught us the "Our Father," a prayer that seeks 'daily bread', teaches us to ask for God's forgiveness and also to forgive others. There is something else God gave us on a mountain: The Ten Commandments. These were handed over to Moses on Mount Sinai. In a way, the Eight Beatitudes are like the Ten Commandments, guiding us on the path to becoming true Christians.



Word of God Matthew 5:3-10

Lord Jesus, through the Beatitudes you have taught us how to be happy even when difficulties and sorrows surround us and we feel helpless and lonely. Help us to live the spirit of Beatitudes in our daily life and in every situation. Grant our prayer Lord in your most Holy Name. Amen.

Know Now: *The Beatitudes* is a famous work by Charles H Spurgeon. In the Sermon on the Mount, Christ told us that we can come to Him as we are—in need, mourning, oppressed, or hungering—and He will bless us. In Charles Spurgeon's revealing exploration of The Beatitudes, you will learn to receive God's comfort, develop a gentle, forgiving spirit, inherit the earth, and find contentment.

Know Now: Today the gardens filled with a variety of flowers on the Mount of Beatitudes is indeed a *'pied beauty'* as Hopkins wrote, for the eyes of the visitors to this historic site. The construction of the black-domed Church of the Beatitudes in 1937 funded by the Italian government has become an added attraction for the tourists as well as pilgrims.

Make a habit of reading the Bible everyday. Ask your teacher for suggestions. Record your reading here by the number of pages or time you spend on:

Reading					
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu		
Fri	Sat	Sun	Total		
Pages	Minutes				
Search and watch on YouTube: ' <i>The Greatest Sermon</i> <i>Ever Preached</i> ' that explains the importance of Sermon on the Mount.					

Bible@Home - Matthew 5: 3 - 10

MY TASK THIS WEEK

To Watch	
To Read	
To Do	

Note